

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-81 are presently active; Claims 1, 24, 26, 28-30, 32, 34-39, 51-58, 60, 62-74, and 77 have been presently amended.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 17, 45, 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,850,327 to Winthrop et al. Claims 1, 2, 17, 45, 46, 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,859,051 to Fukuma et al. Claims 1, 17, 45, 46, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0018136 to Hayashi. Claims 3-16, 40-49, 51-65 and 74-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winthrop et al., Fukuma et al. or Hayashi in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,660,945 to Trachtman. Claims 24-39 and 66-73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winthrop et al., Fukuma et al. or Hayashi in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,752,767 to Muehlemann or, in the alternative, U.S. Pat. No. 3,700,858 to Murthy. Claim 50 was not specifically rejected, although independent Claim 50 contains features similar to rejected Claim 24.

Firstly, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of Examiner Sanders to conduct an interview for this case on July 6, 2005 during which time the outstanding issues in the Official Action were discussed, as substantially summarized herebelow.

During the interview, changes to the independent claims were discussed with regard to the disclosed annular light source. Furthermore, features regarding the disclosed baffle and the use of the invention as a hand-held ophthalmic device were discussed. No agreement on patentability was reached.

Nonetheless, consistent with the suggestions made by the examiner during the

interview, independent Claims 1 and 50-52 have been presently amended to define systems for imaging an object of an organ in which the systems have a baffle inserted in an optical path from an annular light emitter and an objective lens, with the baffle having a taper whose elongated portion is configured to block a part of the emitted light from being incident on the objective lens. Such features are illustrated in Applicants' Figures 5, 6, 7, and 8A.

As such, the objective lens can be used to direct light to an object without the occurrence of undesirable reflections of the directed light from a central region of the non-object side of the objective lens. In the arrangement illustrated in Applicants' Figures 5 and 6, light from the annular light emitter can be focused for example into the pupil of an eye (i.e., an object of an organ) such that the focused light can spread prior to hitting the retina, permitting uniform illumination of a central portion of the retina so that an image can be observed without the above-noted undesirable reflections from the central region of the objective lens obscuring the image. Moreover, the observations can be made through the center of the annular light source, as also shown illustratively in Applicants' Figures 5 and 6.

In the outstanding Office Action, Muehlemann and Murthy were cited for their teachings of a baffle and a conical baffle, respectively. However, neither Muehlemann nor Murthy concern imaging of an object of an organ such as for example various parts of the eye. Muehlemann is directed to a diffuse ring illuminator for uniformly illuminating a photographic object without the illumination creating shadows on the object to be photographed. As such, the object must be free-standing and detached, unlike for example the retina of the eye. Murthy is directed to a data processing system for bar code reading. Once again, the bar code is free-standing and detached, unlike the retina of the eye. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to apply the teachings of Muehlemann or Murthy to the problem of imaging an object of an organ.

Moreover, in the diffuse ring illuminator of Muehlemann, there are no lenses. If a camera were attached to the diffuse ring illuminator, the baffle of Muehlemann containing a light source would be disposed after the objective lens of the camera, and therefore would not be inserted in an optical path from the light source and the objective lens, as defined in independent Claims 1 and 50-52. Thus, even if a camera was considered in Muehlemann to be inherent, Muehlemann would still teach away from the claimed inventions.

In the barcode reader of Murthy, there is likewise no objective lens. Furthermore, the conical baffle 58B in Murthy is tapered with its larger opening closest to the coupling lens 55. Thus, in Murthy, it is the narrow portion of the conical baffle, and not the elongated portion, that blocks a part of the light from the base of the housing 48, should it be asserted that it would be obvious to place an objective lens at the base.

M.P.E.P. § 2143 requires for a *prima facie* case of obviousness that the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. With no disclosure or suggestion of the baffle defined in independent Claims 1 and 50-52, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 50-52 and the claims dependent therefrom patentably define over the cited references.

Regarding independent Claims 53 and 77, these claims define a step to directed light to an object in which a part of the emitted light is blocked by an elongated portion of a tapered baffle inserted in an optical path from an annular light emitter and an objective lens for imaging the object. As such, independent Claims 53 and 77 are similar in scope to independent Claims 1 and 50-52 and likewise are believed (with the claims dependent therefrom) to patentably define over the cited references.

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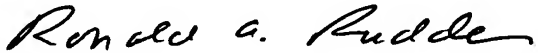
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number  
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)  
EHK:RAR:clh

  
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Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870  
Ronald A. Rudder, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 45,618

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